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First Discussion on American Civil War coming Oct. 11 to Cultural Heritage Center

PIERRE, S.D. -- What do the Dred Scott Supreme Court decision, Dakota Territory Governor Jayne's message to the Second Legislature and Dakota Chief Little Crow's speech of 1862 have in common?

They are all part of the Discussion Guide for the "Making Sense of the American Civil War" reading program that starts on Thursday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m. CST at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

Brad Tennant, associate history professor at Presentation College in Aberdeen, and Donovan Sprague, a professor at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, are serving as the non-tribal and tribal scholars for the program. The Oct. 11 discussion session in Pierre will focus on events occurring in the Northern Plains during the Civil War period, using Tennant's and Sprague's Discussion Guide as context.

"Making Sense of the American Civil War" continues on Saturday, Oct. 20, with discussion of *America's War*, edited by Edward L. Ayers, and concludes on Nov. 4 with discussion of *March* by Geraldine Brooks and *Crossroads of Freedom* by James McPherson.

Anyone interested in participating in the book discussion may pick up Discussion Guides and loan copies of all the books for the series at the Cultural Heritage Center. The books are available in the Administration Office from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on weekdays, and at the front desk on weekends.

For more information, call (605) 773-6011.

The reading series is made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association's Public Programs Office, and is coordinated through the efforts of the South Dakota Humanities Council, in collaboration with the South Dakota State Library.

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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call

(605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.

The South Dakota Humanities Council is a non-profit organization founded in 1972 whose sole mission is to deliver humanities programming to the people of South Dakota. As a steward of the state's heritage, the council promotes the appreciation of South Dakota history, literature and other related humanities subjects through grant-making and cultural programs, such as the Festival of Books, the One Book South Dakota program and others. The council's core mission is to support and promote the exchange of ideas to foster a thoughtful and engaged society. More about the South Dakota Humanities Council is online at www.sdhumanities.org.